

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SWF-01 AID-05 CEA-01

COME-00 EB-04 FRB-01 CIEP-01 STR-01 TRSE-00 LAB-01

SIL-01 OMB-01 AGR-05 XMB-02 IGA-01 NIC-01 /087 W

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R 061731Z NOV 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7745

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EC, PO

SUBJECT: EC-PORTUGAL RELATIONS

1. SUMMARY. PORTUGAL IS NOT NOW SEEKING FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC BUT HAS MADE A NUMBER OF SPECIFIC REQUESTS. THE EC COMMISSION HOPE S FOR EARLY COUNCIL APPROVAL SO THAT GENERAL AGREEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT AT A MEETING OF THE JOINT EC/PORTUGUESE COMMITTEE IN LISBON NEAR THE END OF NOVEMBER. END SUMMARY.

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2. WELLENSTEIN, EC COMMISSION DIRECTOR GENRAL FOR EXTERNAL

AFFAIRS WHO VISITED PORTUGAL ON OCTOBER 22-23, SAID THAT CONTRARY TO EARLIER IMPRESSIONS THAT PORTUGAL MIGHT BE AIMING AT A FORMAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE EC ON THE GREEK-TURKISH MODEL, THE GOP NOW APPEARS TO PREFER MAINTAINING THE PRESENT FRAMEWORK OF RELATIONS UNDER THE FREE TRADE ARRANGEMENT. WELLENSTEIN NOTED STRONG INTEREST AMONG THOSE HE MET IN LISBON IN IMPROVING AND STRENGTHENING GOP RELATIONS WITH THE EC.

3. THE PORTUGUESE PRESENTED WELLENSTEIN WITH THREE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS:

A) ACCESS TO THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK. WELLENSTEIN SAID NO DEFINITIVE AMOUNT FOR THE LINE OF CREDIT HAD BEEN MENTIONED BUT HE THOUGHT THE FIGURE MIGHT RUN SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 100 - 200 MILLION DOLLARS. THE REAL PROBLEM, HE ANTICIPATES, MAY BE IN FINDING ENOUGH SPECIFIC AND SOUND PROJECTS TO MAKE GOOD USE OF WHATEVER FIGURE IS FINALLY MADE AVAILABLE. WELLENSTEIN SAID THE PORTUGUESE HAD NOT ASKED FOR AN ARTIFICIALLY LOW RATE OF INTEREST BUT WERE PREPARED TO PAY THE GOING RATE.

B) MIGRANT WORKERS. PORTUGAL IS SEEKING IMPROVED WORKING CONDITIONS FOR ITS MANY WORKERS EMPLOYED IN EC COUNTRIES.

C) IMPROVED OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRADE. PORTUGAL DESIRES IMPROVED ACCESS TO THE COMMUNITY MARKET FOR SOME OF ITS PRODUCTS SUCH AS WINE AND TOMATO PASTE.

4. WELLENSTEIN SAID THE COMMISSION HAS FORWARDED POSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THESE REQUESTS TO THE EC COMMITTEE OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WHICH WILL DISCUSS THEM DURING ITS MEETING ON NOVEMBER 7 WITH A VIEW TO FORWARDING RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EC COUNCIL FOR CONSIDERATION AT ITS NOVEMBER 12 SESSION. THE COMMISSION HOPES THE COUNCIL WILL TAKE FAVORABLE ACTION SO THAT THE PROGRAM CAN THEN BE DISCUSSED WITH PORTUGUESE ECONOMICS MINISTER VILAR, WHO IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT BRUSSELS BETWEEN NOVEMBER 15-20. FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WOULD THEN TAKE PLACE DURING A MEETING AT THE EC/PORTUGUESE JOINT COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN PORTUGAL TOWARD THE END OF THIS MONTH. (WELLENSTEIN COMMENTED THAT HOLDING THIS MEETING OUTSIDE OF BRUSSELS WAS A SPECIAL GESTURE TO THE PORTUGUESE.) HE HOPES THAT THE GENERAL OUTLINE OF A PROGRAM CAN BE APPROVED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THAT MEETING SINCE IT WOULD REPRESENT A TANGIBLE ACHIEVEMENT IN EC-PORTUGUESE RELATIONS, EVEN THOUGH THE WORKING OUT OF DETAILS WOULD TAKE SOME ADDITIONAL TIME.

5. WELLENSTEIN COMMENTED THAT A LONG AND TEDIOUS PROCESS LIES AHEAD IN ACHIEVING PROGRESS IN PORTUGAL. THE MOST THAT ANYONE CAN DO, HE NOTED, IS TO TRY TO HELP THE PORTUGUESE KEEP THEIR HEADS ABOVE WATER. HOWEVER, HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF

DEMONSTRATING THAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE. HE NOTED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SOARES HAD MADE A SIMILAR COMMENT TO HIM STRESSING THAT HE WANTED TO HAVE SOMETHING TANGIBLE FROM THE WEST TO ACT AS A COUNTERBALANCE TO THE ELABORATE PROMISES MADE TO RECENT PORTUGUESE VISITORS TO EASTERN EUROPE.GREENWALD

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